

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A ladder station support device comprising:
an upper holder assembly comprising an upper mounting body and a first holder rotatably fastened to said upper mounting body;
a lower holder assembly comprising a lower mounting body and a second holder rotatably fastened to said lower mounting body; ~~and~~
a vertically-oriented articulation rod interconnecting said upper and lower holder assemblies, wherein the upper holder assembly may be adjustably positioned along an axis defined by said articulation rod; and
wherein said first and second holder each having a general rhomboid shape.
2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, said upper and lower mounting body each having a vertically-oriented recess adapted to receive said respective first and second holder, said recess having a holder interface surface and a perimeter wall having a lower perimeter portion, an upper perimeter portion, and a side perimeter portion.
3. (Canceled).
4. (Original) The device according to claim 3, said first and second holder each having a stack supporting side, a resting side opposing said stack supporting side, a sliding edge side, and a stopping edge side opposing said sliding edge side.
5. (Original) The device according to claim 4, wherein said resting side is adapted to contact and rest on said lower perimeter portion of the recess when said first or second holder is in a non-engaged state.
6. (Original) The device according to claim 4, wherein said resting side contacts said lower perimeter portion of said recess when said first or second holder supports a stack of slats.

7. (Original) The device according to claim 4, wherein said first and second holder are each adapted to recede into the recess when a force is exerted on said sliding edge of said first or second holder.
8. (Original) The device according to claim 7, wherein when said first or second holder is fully receded into the recess, said stopping edge of said first or second holder contacts said side perimeter portion of the recess.
9. (Original) A ladder station support device comprising:
an upper holder assembly consisting of an upper mounting body, a first holder, a first bolt for rotatably fastening said first holder to said upper body, and a first set screw;
a lower holder assembly consisting of a lower mounting body, a second holder, a second bolt for rotatably fastening said second holder to said lower body, and a second set screw; and
a vertically-oriented articulation rod interconnecting said upper and lower holder assemblies, wherein said upper holder assembly may be adjustably positioned along an axis defined by said articulation rod and secured thereto by said first set screw, and said lower holder assembly may be secured to a distal end of said articulation rod by said second set screw.
10. (Original) The device according to claim 9, said upper and lower mounting body each having a vertically-oriented recess adapted to receive said respective first and second holder, the recess having a holder interface surface and a perimeter wall having a lower perimeter portion, an upper perimeter portion, and a side perimeter portion.
11. (Original) The device according to claim 9, said first and second holder each having a general rhomboid shape.
12. (Original) The device according to claim 11, said first and second holder each having a stack supporting side, a resting side opposing said stack supporting side, a sliding edge side, and a stopping edge side opposing said sliding edge side.

13. (Original) The device according to claim 12, wherein said resting side is adapted to rest on said lower perimeter portion of the recess when said first or second holder is in a non-engaged state.

14. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein said resting side contacts said lower perimeter portion of the recess when said first or second holder supports a stack of slats.

15. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein said first and second holder are each adapted to recede into the recess when a force is exerted on said sliding edge of said first or second holder.

16. (Original) The device according to claim 15, wherein when said first or second holder is fully receded into the recess, said stopping edge of said first or second holder contacts said side perimeter portion of the recess.

17. (Withdrawn) An assembly machine for stacking blind slats in combination with a plurality of ladder station support devices installed onto a portion of said assembly machine, said plurality of ladder station support devices comprising:

left support half comprising,

a left upper holder assembly comprising a left upper mounting body and a first left holder rotatably fastened to said left upper mounting body;

a left lower holder assembly comprising a left lower mounting body and a second left holder rotatably fastened to said left lower mounting body; and a vertically-oriented left articulation rod interconnecting said left upper and lower

holder assemblies, wherein said left upper holder assembly may be adjustably positioned along a first axis defined by said left articulation rod; and

a right support half comprising

a right upper holder assembly comprising a right upper mounting body and a first right holder rotatably fastened to said right upper mounting body;

a right lower holder assembly comprising a right lower mounting body and a second right holder rotatably fastened to said right lower mounting body; and

a vertically-oriented right articulation rod interconnecting said right upper and lower holder assemblies, wherein said right upper holder assembly may be adjustably

positioned along a second axis defined by said right articulation rod; wherein said left and said right support halves are vertically aligned and laterally aligned with each other such that said left and right upper holders are opposing each other and said left and right lower holders are opposing each other.

18. (Withdrawn) The assembly machine in combination with said plurality of ladder station support devices according to claim 17, wherein each mounting body has a vertically-oriented recess adapted to receive a respective holder, the recess having a holder interface surface and a perimeter wall having a lower perimeter portion, an upper perimeter portion, and a side perimeter portion.

19. (Withdrawn) The assembly machine in combination with said plurality of ladder station support devices according to claim 17, wherein each holder has a general rhomboid shape.

20. (Withdrawn) The assembly machine in combination with said plurality of ladder station support devices according to claim 17, wherein each holder has a stack supporting side, a resting side opposing said stack supporting side, a sliding edge side, and a stopping edge side opposing said sliding edge side.

21. (Withdrawn) The assembly machine in combination with said plurality of ladder station support devices according to claim 20, wherein said resting side is adapted to rest on said lower perimeter portion of the recess when a respective holder is in a non-engaged state.

22. (Withdrawn) The assembly machine in combination with said plurality of ladder station support devices according to claim 20, wherein said resting side contacts said lower perimeter portion of the recess when a respective holder supports a stack of slats.

23. (Withdrawn) The assembly machine in combination with said plurality of ladder station support devices according to claim 20, wherein each holder is adapted to recede into the recess when a force is exerted on said sliding edge of said respective holder.

24. (Withdrawn) The assembly machine in combination with said plurality of ladder station support devices according to claim 23, wherein when said respective holder is fully receded into

the recess, said stopping edge of said respective holder contacts said side perimeter portion of the recess.

25. (Withdrawn) A ladder station support comprising:

a left support half and a right support half vertically and laterally aligned with each other, each support half having at least one vertically-oriented recess formed within said support half, the recess having an interface surface and a perimeter wall having a lower perimeter portion, an upper perimeter portion, and a side perimeter portion, wherein said at least one vertically-oriented recess formed within left support half opposes said at least one vertically-oriented recess formed with right support half; and
a generally rhomboid shaped holder rotatably fastened within each recess such that said holders from the left support half oppose said holders from the right support half, wherein each holder consists of four sides including a stack supporting side, a resting side opposing said stack supporting side, a sliding edge side, and a stopping edge side opposing said sliding edge side,
wherein said resting side is adapted to rest on said lower perimeter portion of the recess when a respective holder is in a non-engaged state,
wherein said resting side contacts said lower perimeter portion of the recess when a respective holder supports a stack of slats,
wherein each holder is adapted to recede into the recess when a force is exerted on said sliding edge of said respective holder, and
wherein when said respective holder is fully receded into the recess, said stopping edge of said respective holder contacts said side perimeter portion of the recess.

26. (New) A ladder station support device comprising:

an upper holder assembly comprising an upper mounting body and a first holder rotatably fastened to said upper mounting body;
a lower holder assembly comprising a lower mounting body and a second holder rotatbly fastened to said lower mounting body;

a vertically-oriented articulation rod interconnecting said upper and lower holder assemblies, wherein the upper holder assembly may be adjustably positioned along an axis defined by said articulation rod;
wherein said upper and lower mounting body each having a vertically-oriented recess adapted to receive said respective first and second holder; and
wherein said recess having a holder interface surface and a perimeter wall having a lower perimeter portion, an upper perimeter portion, and a side perimeter portion.